

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

by

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CHAPTER TWO

The Curtains of the Tabernacle

Now, WITH YOUR BIBLE OPEN TO THE 25TH CHAPTER of Exodus, verse 22, we shall start on a personally conducted tour, down across the peninsula of Sinai to Mount Sinai.

The HOLY SPIRIT will be our guide.

We leave the arm of the Red Sea and travel eastward to Marah, where the children of Israel found the waters so bitter that they could not drink. There Moses cast a tree into the bitter waters, and they became sweet and refreshing.

There is a lesson here for us: in any experience of life the bitterness can be changed and sweetened because of our relation to GOD through the Cross.

We travel on down to Elim where there are wells of water, and where the children of Israel were refreshed in the shade of the palm trees. From Elim we go across the vast desert sands, dry and hot in the daytime, and we finally come to Mount Sinai, a prominent mountain standing some 6,700 feet in elevation. [26]

THE VIEW FROM SINAI

The HOLY SPIRIT directs us up on the side of the mountain where He points out some things of great interest to us. Here on the mountain side we look out over a vast encampment - many hundreds and hundreds of black-topped tents - as far as the eye can see.

Our guide tells us that the twelve tribes of Israel are encamped at the foot of the mountain, tribe by tribe in an orderly fashion, beautifully arranged around a central meeting place. Someone in the party suggests that there might be a hundred and forty-four thousand in each tribe. This is merely a suggestion. If we multiply 144,000 by 12, we will have one million five-hundred thousand, or about the number that went on the exodus out of Egypt unto Mount Sinai.

As we stand looking down from the mountain slope, our guide calls our attention to the Tabernacle which is closed in by white linen curtains, and which stands in the very midst of the great encampment of black-topped tents. He impresses us with the fact that inside that court or enclosure is the Brazen Altar upon which the sacrifice is burning continually. [27]

Beyond the Brazen Altar is the Laver, at which the priest washes his hands and feet daily before he goes into the Holy Place, there to partake of the bread upon the Table of Shewbread and to trim the lamps of the seven-fold Candlestick.

These things he does before he goes to the Altar of Incense for prayer.

Furthermore, the HOLY SPIRIT tells us that upon one day in the year, the Day of Atonement, Aaron the High Priest, goes into the Holy of Holies, into the very presence of GOD, and there he stands before the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat with the overshadowing Cherubim. There, on that day, once a year, GOD's presence is manifested.

Our guide points out the great pillar of cloud which GOD provided for His children, to guide them by day, to shield them from the hot desert sun, and to become a pillar of fire by night, giving light in the darkness.

We can see that great umbrella-like pillar of cloud, standing over the Tabernacle, and as we look we notice that the burning rays of the desert sun do not reach us with such heat, for as it spreads we are partly under the umbrella of that great pillar of cloud.

What a good view we have looking over the vast sea of black tents.

Standing there we watch the sun going down in the west and Oh! what a glorious, what an awe-inspiring sight! As the night shadows fall we see that pillar of cloud change and slowly become a pillar of fire! When darkness comes, we see it standing protectively over the acres of black tents, casting a soft, glowing light to illumine GOD's children in the night time.

How sweet, how tender is GOD's care for His own. [28]

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TABERNACLE

Now I have told you of this briefly, but I want you to read Exodus 25:22 and then with the HOLY SPIRIT as guide, go down by faith from the mountainside and approach the Tabernacle.

The outer court is some 175 feet in length by eighty-seven and one-half feet in width. "**And there (will you underline that little word *there* for it's a very important word), I will meet with thee and will commune with thee."**"

Now the HOLY SPIRIT leads us down to walk around the white linen curtained enclosure, which surrounds the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. Here you will want to examine closely the picture of the Tabernacle.

As we approach the outer court we see some sixty pillars of acacia wood.

Those pillars, standing some eight feet nine inches in height, are connected by bars of silver from which are hung the fine-twined linen curtains. One cannot see over or under these curtains.

As we walk around we come to the east entrance of the outer court. Here, at the gate of the court, which is the only entrance, we find a beautiful three-colored linen curtain. As a man stands before the white curtain, immediately he is face to face with the fact that he is a sinner, and he cannot enter as he is. GOD demands holiness. [29]

GOD has a standard of righteousness from which sinful man falls short.

Here, the HOLY SPIRIT begins to reveal to man his burden of sin and the desperate wickedness of his heart, which shuts him out from communion with a holy GOD. Shuts him out? Oh, no!

There is a way - *a God-provided way!*

Man may enter by the one gate and come to the Brazen Altar where the sacrifice is burning continually - the lamb whose blood was shed indicating a counterpart of the sacrifice of CHRIST Who shed His blood paying our penalty for sin.

THE ONE WAY OF APPROACH

Though man is a sinner, doomed to die for his sins ("The wages of sin is death") yet there is the innocent lamb, shedding his blood as a sacrifice, which is typical of CHRIST, the Lamb of GOD, going to the Cross and shedding His blood in our place.

Thus the man who believes - who, at the Brazen Altar, believes and accepts - is forgiven.

His weight of sin is lifted, remembered no more against him forever.

In newness of life he may go on to the Laver for cleansing and on to the Mercy Seat where GOD will meet him in sweet fellowship.

The Book of Romans unfolds the way by which sinful man may approach a holy GOD.

We can consider only a few points briefly, but you should read the Book of Romans carefully with this in view. [30]

It shows us clearly first of all, that natural man is without hope, without CHRIST, without GOD, a sinner before GOD.

Paul begins in chapter 1:18 to point out that the scarlet sinner, the deeply-dyed sinner, the drunkard, the harlot, the murderer, the adulterer is lost; GOD has given them up to their vile affections. And anyone reading those verses would immediately agree that man is in need of salvation, and in order to be redeemed he needs to be clothed upon with GOD's perfect robe of righteousness.

Standing there before those white, fine-twined linen curtains we say, "Oh, HOLY SPIRIT, how can man, devoid of GOD's standard of righteousness, lost, undone, how can he ever enter in and meet Thee at the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat?"

Yes, for the natural man that's the problem!

I know there are many who endeavor to have fellowship with the eternal GOD, who talk about GOD, the Great Loving Spirit. But they have never, never come by GOD's way of approach as outlined in His Book and as is so clearly taught in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

I realize my responsibility in making this teaching as plain as possible, with the HOLY SPIRIT's empowering, for I am speaking to you who have eternal souls to be saved or lost.

Let me warn you! Unless you come in GOD's way, by CHRIST JESUS, the only way of approach, you will spend all eternity in separation from Him, an ever-living soul in everlasting darkness! But that's not GOD's will, and He has provided for you a way of escape. [31]

~ end of chapter 2 ~

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